In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A catheter insertion sheath comprising:

a tubular sheath having a proximal end, a distal end, and a hollow passage extending between the proximal end and the distal end;

a handle portion disposed at the proximal end of the tubular sheath; and

a clamp assembly extending from the handle portion for releasably closing the sheath, the clamp assembly including at least one section in fixed relationship to the sheath adjacent thereto, and at least one section that is movable with respect to the fixed section and to the sheath, wherein the at least one movable section ~~clamp assembly~~ is translatable between an open position and a closed position, wherein, when ~~the clamp assembly is~~ in the open position, fluid may flow through the hollow passage between the proximal end and the distal end and when ~~the clamp assembly is~~ in the closed position, fluid flow is restricted through the hollow passage between the proximal end and the distal end,

wherein the clamp assembly is affixed to the handle and positioned adjacent to the sheath in such a manner that its at least one movable portion is operable with a single hand while that hand also holds the insertion sheath.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) A catheter insertion sheath comprising:

a flexible elongated body having a proximal end, a distal end, a longitudinal axis extending therethrough;

a handle connected to the proximal end of the body; and

a pinching assembly for pinching the body closed, wherein the pinching assembly extends from the handle, the pinching assembly including at least one section in fixed relationship to the sheath adjacent thereto, and at least one section that is movable with respect to the fixed portion and to the sheath, and wherein the at least one movable section ~~pinching assembly~~ is operable between [[and]] an open position and a closed position.

4. (Previously presented) The catheter insertion sheath according to claim 3, wherein the pinching assembly comprises a first portion disposed generally on one side of the longitudinal axis and a second portion, similar to the first portion, disposed generally on an opposing side of the longitudinal axis, wherein each of the first and second portions includes a fixed section and a movable section.

5. (Previously presented) The catheter insertion sheath according to claim 4, wherein the first portion comprises a first tab and the second portion comprises a first recess, and wherein, when the pinching assembly is in the closed position, the first tab engages the first recess.

6. (Previously presented) The catheter insertion sheath according to claim 5, further comprising the second portion having a second tab and the first portion having a second recess, and wherein, when the pinching assembly is in the closed position, the second tab engages the second recess.

7. (Previously presented) The catheter insertion sheath according to claim 3, wherein the pinching assembly is hingedly connected to the handle.

8. (Previously presented) The catheter insertion sheath according to claim 3, wherein the pinching assembly is operable with a single hand while that hand also holds the insertion sheath body.

9. (Currently amended) The catheter insertion sheath according to claim 3, wherein the pinching assembly comprises:

a body having a first end connected to the sheath handle and a second end having a slot extending through the body; and

a generally planar unitary pinch member slidingly disposed within the slot between an open position and a pinching position, wherein the pinch member includes a first pinch leg having a first tapered free end and a first connected end and a second pinch leg juxtaposed from the first pinch leg, wherein the second pinch leg has a second tapered free end and a second connected end connected to the first connected end, and wherein the pinch member is slidable within the slot between a first position wherein the first and second tapered free ends are proximate to the slot and a second position wherein the first and second connected ends are proximate to the slot.

10. (Original) The catheter insertion sheath according to claim 9, wherein the body is generally elongated.

11. (Original) The catheter insertion sheath according to claim 9, wherein the first pinch leg comprises a first rib disposed toward the second pinch leg and wherein the second pinch leg comprises a second rib disposed toward the first pinch leg.

12. (Original) The catheter insertion sheath according to claim 9, wherein, when the first and second tapered free ends are proximate to the slot, the body is in an open position

and when the first and second connected ends are proximate to the slot, the body is in a closed position.

13. (Original) A catheter insertion sheath assembly comprising:

a catheter sheath including a generally tubular sheath body having a proximal end and a distal end;

a handle fixedly connected to the proximal end of the sheath body; and

a catheter sheath clamp comprising:

a body having a first end connected to the sheath handle in a fixed relationship therewith and is adjacent the sheath and a second end having a slot extending through the body; and

a generally planar pinch member slidingly disposed within the slot between an open position and a pinching position, wherein the pinch member includes a first pinch leg having a first tapered free end and a first connected end and a second pinch leg juxtaposed from the first pinch leg, wherein the second pinch leg has a second tapered free end and a second connected end connected to the first connected end, and wherein the pinch member is slidable within the slot between a first position wherein the first and second tapered free ends are proximate to the slot and a second position wherein the first and second connected ends are proximate to the slot.

14. (Original) The catheter insertion sheath assembly according to claim 13, wherein the body is generally elongated.

15. (Original) The catheter insertion sheath assembly according to claim 13, wherein the first pinch leg comprises a first rib disposed toward the second pinch leg and wherein the second pinch leg comprises a second rib disposed toward the first pinch leg.

Claims 16 to 24. (Canceled)